

December 16, 1975

5230

Mr. James F. Kretschmann
Superintendent, Horseshoe Bend
National Military Park
P. O. Box 63, Route 1
Daviston, Alabama 36256

Dear Mr. Kretschmann:

During the period November 6-19, 1975, Loyd Drake of the Alexandria Field Office of the Forest Insect and Disease Management Group, conducted an aerial and ground survey of insect and disease conditions on the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

Two spots containing 40 dead or dying pines were detected during the aerial survey. Ground examination revealed that the spots were caused by southern pine beetles. Eighteen trees were currently infested.

No other insect or disease activity was observed.

The southern pine beetle does not appear to be a serious problem on the Park at this time. However, a light infestation does exist and if conditions become favorable for its development, this insect is capable of a rapid population build-up that could result in extensive pine tree losses.

As was discussed with Park Service personnel during this survey, the most practical approach to suppression is rapid salvage and utilization of infested material. Other recommended control procedures include burning or chemically treating infested material.

I am attaching a copy of our Guidelines for Southern Pine Beetle Control that may be helpful if you decide in favor of suppression. Any pesticides mentioned in the Guidelines are registered. They should be mixed and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's label. To our knowledge, none of these are on the Department of Interior's prohibited or restricted list; however, approval for use should be obtained through your regular departmental procedures.

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If you have questions regarding this survey or other insect or disease problems, please let us know.

Sincerely,

MELVYN J. WEISS,

MELVYN J. WEISS
Acting Field Representative,
Forest Insect & Disease Management

enclosure

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